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Letters

Media treatment of the Bay of Pigs anniversary

The Washington Times is to be commended for remembering the Bay of Pigs' 25th anniversary with a full-page spread, while *The Washington Post* let it pass unnoticed except for a column by Haynes Johnson.

In your full page, however, only one sentence was devoted to the key factor in the failure of the invasion. That was in the UPI story by Matthew Quinn, who said, "Debate is still heard on whether the CIA's invasion plan was a losing proposition from the start, or whether American air strikes canceled by Mr. [John F.] Kennedy would have boosted the chance of success."

We don't know whether the invasion would have succeeded or not, but we do know that it was doomed to failure when President Kennedy reneged on the commitment made to the Cuban freedom fighters that Castro's small airforce would be destroyed prior to the landing.

Half of the planes had been destroyed in one bombing run. Declassified National Security Council documents show that Mr. Kennedy called off the second air strike that was required to finish the job. He also refused to order U.S. Navy planes on a nearby carrier to provide cover for the invaders. Castro had control of the skies. He was

able to bottle up the invaders on the beach and sink two of their ships that carried needed weapons and equipment.

It is interesting to note that Haynes Johnson's column in *The Post* didn't mention the cancelation of the air strike and attributed the failure of the invasion primarily to the fact that we misjudged the Cuban people's attitude toward Castro. He says they regarded Castro as a hero. The "hero" has never dared put that to the test of a free vote.

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